

REMARKS

In the Action mailed February 17, 2006, the Examiner rejected all pending claims 1-32. Applicants in this paper have amended claims 1 and 14. As such, claims 1-32 remain pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the amendments above and the following remarks.

Oath/Declaration

The Examiner stated a new oath or declaration was required because the second inventor's signature was missing. Applicants submit all inventors have signed the declaration that was submitted, albeit the inventors signed on separate pages. A copy of the declaration is provided for the Examiner's convenience. Accordingly, Applicants ask that the Examiner withdraw the requirement for a new oath or declaration.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 101

The Examiner rejected claims 1-32 under 35 U.S.C. 101 on the ground that none of the claims are directed to statutory subject matter. In particular, the Examiner contended that the independent claims 1, 14 and 27 deal with simple mathematical abstract ideas with no practical application.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position. The independent claims are directed to appropriate subject matter of a method, system and article that have a practical application. In particular, practical application of the data structure resulting from the claimed invention – namely a generalized data structure containing attribute data – is a mechanism to produce a transmittable data format that allows for information sharing among dissimilar data processing environments, in particular, electronic commerce environments. In addition, to more clearly illustrate the fact that the claims are more than a mathematical abstract idea, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 14 to recite that the method and operations set forth in the claim are computer-implemented.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the Section 101 rejection of the claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102 and 103

The Examiner rejected all of the independent claims 1, 14 and 27, and various dependent claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dorsett Jr. (U.S. Patent 6,658,429, hereafter Dorsett). The remaining claims not rejected as anticipated, the Examiner rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dorsett in view of Woolston et al. (U.S. Patent 6,856,967, hereafter Woolston). Applicants submit that each of the independent claims 1, 14 and 27 defines subject matter that is patentable over both Dorsett and Woolston.

Applicants' claim 1, for example, is directed to a computer-implemented method. The method includes retrieving business object data from one or more database tables, the business object data including attribute data for one or more attributes of the business object. The method further includes retrieving metadata from the business object data, the metadata including a name, a data type, and a value for each attribute of the business object data. The method further includes constructing a generalized data structure for the attribute data using the metadata, and parsing the attribute data into the generalized data structure.

Dorsett discloses receiving data from a chemical experiment on a library of materials and generating a representation of the chemical experiment. Dorsett does not disclose or suggest many of the limitations set forth in Applicants' claim 1. For example, Dorsett does not disclose, as required by claim 1, a method that includes *constructing a generalized data structure* for retrieved attribute data *using retrieved metadata*. Rather, Dorsett merely discloses the fact that objects can have properties including metadata that can define the object class and may be assigned to instances of the object class by the user (Dorsett, col 9, lines 26-43). Dorsett does not disclose in any way the construction of a generalized data structure for received attribute data and using retrieved metadata (in other words, during a run-time operation, as opposed to an earlier configuration time). Applicants invite the Examiner to review again Applicants' description of the construction of the generalized data structure that occurs during run-time, which is described in Applicants' specification, for example, at paragraph 0038.

Furthermore, Dorsett does not disclose, as required by claim 1, a method that includes parsing the attribute data into the generalized data structure that was synthesized by virtue of information from object metadata. Indeed, this is not met by Dorsett, at least because Dorsett does not disclose such a generalized data structure being constructed in the first place. Rather, Dorsett merely discloses a mapping mechanism that maps entities extracted from a parsed XML stream to appropriate database tables.

Dorsett also does not render Applicants' claim 1 obvious. For example, Applicants' claimed subject matter solves problems and provides advantages not afforded or even contemplated by Dorsett. In particular, Applicants' claimed subject matter provides a generalized data handler that may be used to exchange data among data processing systems. The subject matter overcomes a known problem, described in Applicants' background section, of communicating information between processing systems of different data processing systems, which may very well not be known in advance. The subject matter provides advantages specifically to electronic commerce; in that, for example, orders may be placed and received using a "universal" information template (the "generalized data structure"). The 'template' can provide transactional data in a language that processing systems can fully understand without requiring hardware or software modifications to receive and process the information. In stark contrast, Dorsett teaches a method of computationally performing chemical reactions using object data that a user can select and intermix to predict certain physical or chemical phenomena.

Therefore, claim 1 defines subject matter that is patentable over Dorsett, as do the rejected dependent claims that depend from claim 1. In addition, Woolston does not address the deficiencies of Dorsett with respect to Applicants' claim 1, and indeed, the Examiner has not cited Woolston for that purpose. With respect to the other pending independent claims 14 and 27, as well as their respective dependents, these claims are patentable for the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1 and its dependents.

Accordingly, claims 1-32 define an invention that is patentable over Dorsett and Woolston, and Applicants ask that the Examiner remove his anticipation and obviousness rejections of these claims.

Conclusion

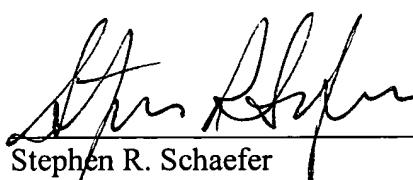
Applicants submit that claims 1-32 are not in condition for allowance, and ask that the Examiner issue a notice of allowance.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Enclosed is a \$1020 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Aug 17, 2006



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Patent
Attorney's Docket No.: 13914-031001 / 2003P00497 US

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole Inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint Inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter that is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

GENERALIZED DATA HANDLER

the specification of which:

is attached hereto.

was filed on July 31, 2003.

under Application No. 10/632,563

with Express Mail No. _____ (Application Number not yet known).

was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. _____.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information that is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a).

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §119(e)(1) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

U.S. Serial No.	Filing Date	Status
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I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information I know to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

U.S. Serial No.	Filing Date	Status
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I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

Country	Application No.	Filing Date	Priority Claimed [] Yes [] No
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Patent
Attorney's Docket No.: 13914-031001 / 2003P00497 US

I hereby appoint all registered practitioners associated with Customer Number 32884 to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and direct that all correspondence be addressed to:

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Direct all telephone calls to LINDA G. GUNDERSON, Reg. No. 46,341, at telephone number (858) 678-5070.

For Assigned Inventions: I understand that the purpose of making this appointment is to permit prosecution of patent applications for the above-identified invention for the benefit of my assignee, and that this appointment does not create an attorney-client relationship between me and these appointees.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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